

Salem Guinea Pigs Aid Science

By Lillie L. Madson
Farm Editor, The Statesman
Noah Webster, of definition fame, says that a guinea pig is any subject of "experimentation or testing designed to yield data for scientific conclusions or large scale calculations".

Mrs. John Christensen, of Salem route 7, says that many very well all be so but a guinea pig is more than that. It's an individual animal with special likes and dislikes, and besides being used so frequently "to yield data for scientific conclusions", it makes a mighty fine pet.

History tells nothing of Noah Webster ever having had a guinea pig. Mrs. Christensen has had as many as 200 at one time and at the present time has some over 75. You never know, she explains, just how many guinea pigs you have.

"Don't get the idea that they are as prolific as rabbits," Mrs. Christensen hurriedly adds, "They aren't. But they do multiply quite rapidly... very rapidly if you don't segregate them." Mrs. Christensen has grown rabbits, too. In fact she has 70 does at the present time besides the guinea pigs. At one time she had 260 does.

But guinea pigs are more interesting than rabbits, Mrs. Christensen reports, as she tells how she first began raising them.

Pigs for Laboratory
"It was about three years ago. We had been raising rabbits for a year or so. One of Salem's laboratory technicians approached us



Mrs. J. Christensen Displays Prize Guinea Pig

about raising him some 'pigs'. I was startled," she says. "I told him we couldn't raise very many on our little six acre ranch. Then he explained he wanted pigs for his laboratory—guinea pigs. That's how we started."

Since then the Christensens have raised them steadily, selling, besides to the Salem laboratories, to a "cavy broker" in California. The broker distributes them to the various laboratories there.

Each sow, as the little female is called, has from three to four litters a year. If they produce more rapidly the little pigs are less strong and do not make quite

such good specimens for laboratory experiments.

Eyes Open Before Birth

They are in rather an advanced stage of development before birth. Their eyes are open two weeks before the pigs are born. Their body is covered with hair, and their teeth are so developed that they can eat solid food almost from birth. When they are an hour and a half old they are up eating lettuce.

A funny thing about the mothers, Mrs. Christensen tells, is that they do not seem to care whether they feed their own or the pigs of one of the other sows. If six mothers with their young are put into the same pen, the mothers feed any of the little pigs that come along.

Unlike most other animals (excepting man) guinea pigs require a large amount of vitamin C. They get this from green feeds such as clover, grass, alfalfa, lettuce, carrot tops and sprouted oats. Some breeders feed their guinea pigs cabbage and apples, but Mrs. Christensen finds this is not good for them, and other guinea pig ex-

perts say that "cabbage should be fed sparingly at first."

When the little pigs are about 10 weeks old and weigh from 9 to 16 ounces, they are ready for laboratory use. They are then taken to the laboratory where they are injected with whatever serum the experiment involves. They are returned to the cavery for six weeks (if they live that long), kept and fed separately from all other guinea pigs. After six weeks they are taken back to the laboratory for diagnosis, in reference to the way the serum has performed.

Many laboratories, Mrs. Christensen says, have facilities for keeping the guinea pig right at hand.

Pigs Called Cavies

Fanciers of the little rodents call them cavies. The domesticated guinea pig is derived from the restless cavy, the wild guinea pig of South America. Its wild ancestors still live on that continent.

Mrs. Christensen says there are 23 varieties. A white variety, known as the Himamaylan, brings a little more than do most of the other varieties. The common guinea pig is called the English variety, and is well adapted to laboratory use. It comes in many colors, frequently spotted black, white and red. The Peruvian variety has rather long hair (frequently six inches long.) The other varieties are not seen frequently at shows.

Silverton WCTU Plans Yule Party

Statesman News Service
SILVERTON — The Frances Willard chapter of the Women's Christian Temperance Union will hold its annual Christmas party at 2 p. m. Friday, December 14 at the Calvary Lutheran parsonage, 310 Jersey st., with Mrs. A. Hokanson as hostess.

The party is held to bring gifts to the Children's Farm home at Corvallis and anyone, whether a member of the group or not, is invited to bring a gift to the party. The WCTU will deliver the gifts to the Corvallis home.

Mill City School Starts Rally Squad

Statesman News Service
MILL CITY — Eight girls have been elected by their respective classes to make up a rally squad at Mill City high school.

They are: Joyce Westgaard and Ardit Jones, seniors; Patricia Davidson and JoAnn Hoffman, juniors; Jerry Hamblin and Carol Blazek, sophomores; and freshmen, Patricia Nibler and Willa Loucks. This is the first year there has been a rally squad for the school.

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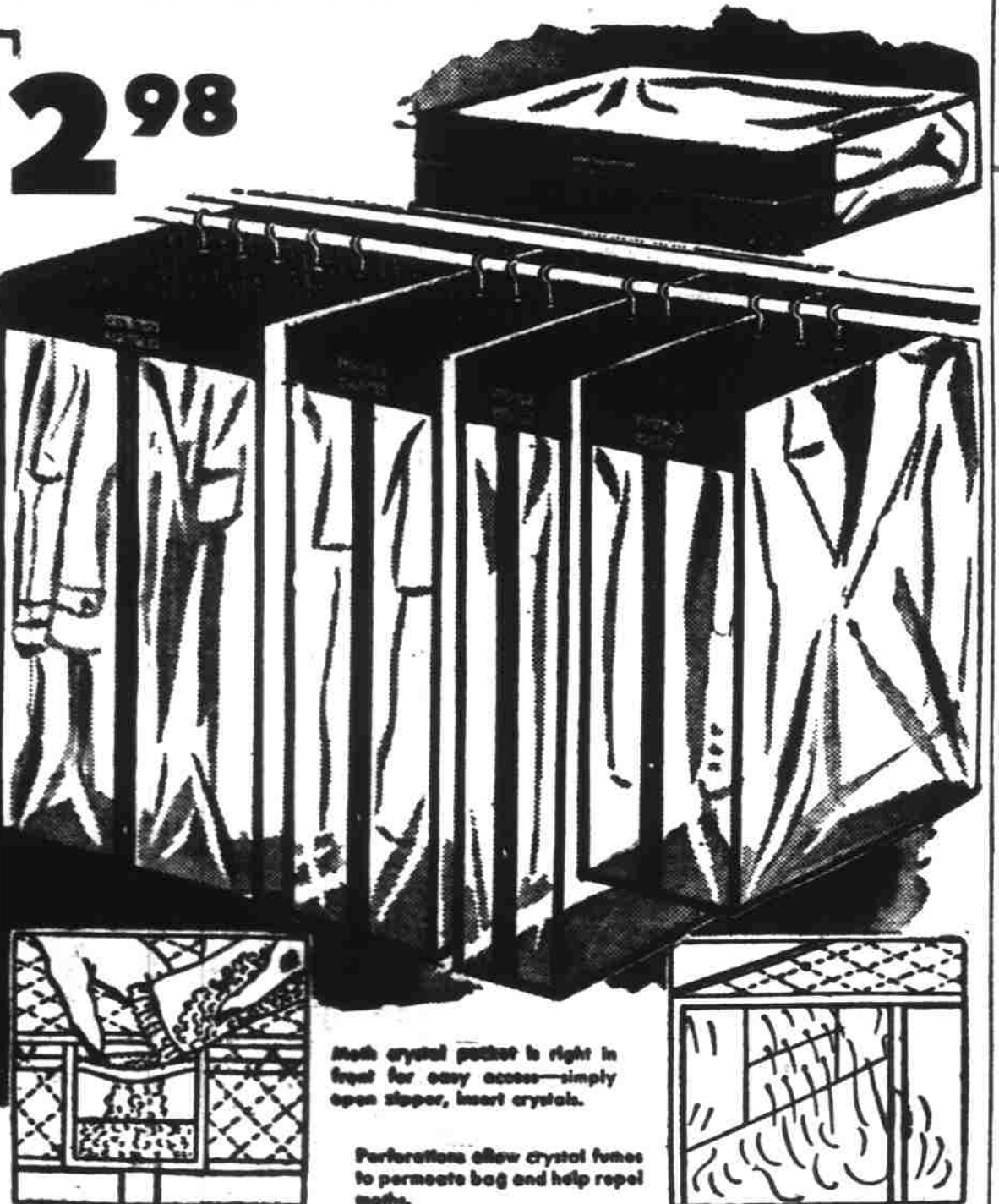
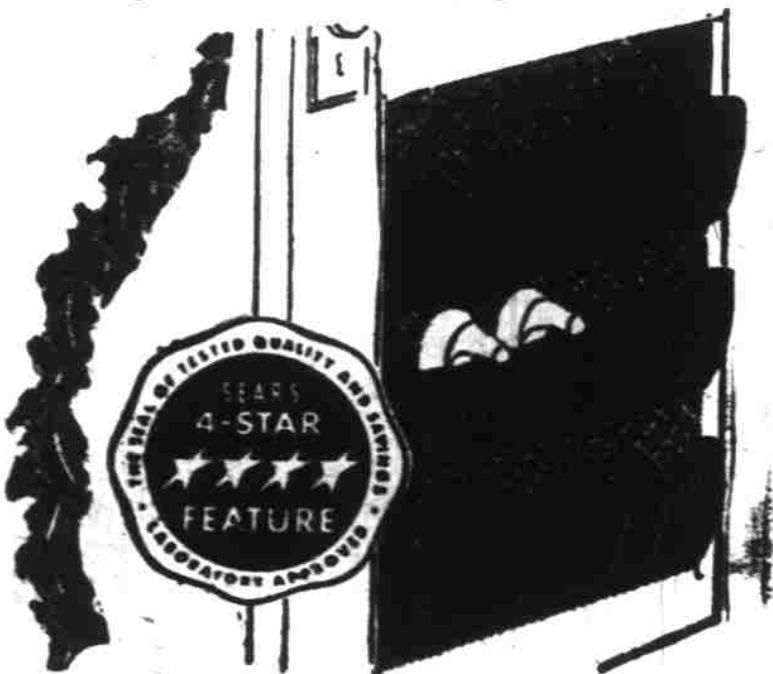
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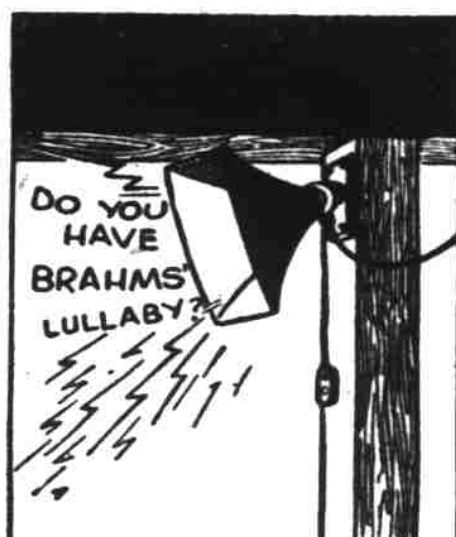
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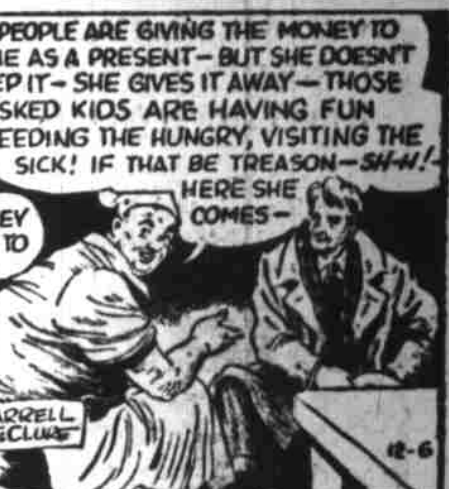
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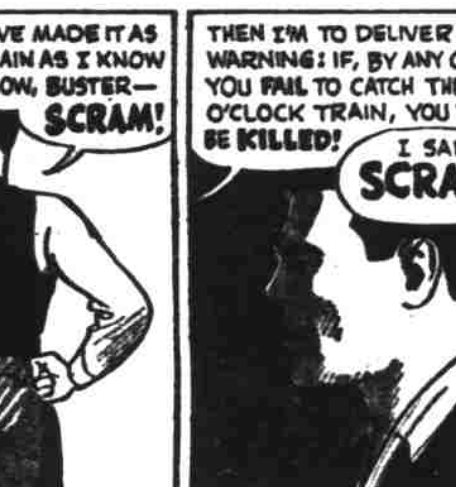
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